



A drainpipe in Los Angeles

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SUNDAY

August 14, 2005

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Make noise if you want it quieter

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OGDEN — Property owners who want sound walls constructed as part of an Interstate 15 expansion in Weber County had better start making some noise.

Utah Department of Transportation Region 1 spokesman Andy Neff said his agency requires that two-thirds of property owners in eligible areas vote in favor of sound walls before they can be built.

From 2006 to 2008, UDOT will spend \$180 million to reconstruct interchanges at 31st Street, 24th Street, 21st Street and 12th Street, and to widen I-15 to four lanes in each direction between Interstate 84 and 12th Street.

An environmental impact study identified five sections of I-15 that have or will have sufficient noise to be eligible for sound walls as part of the capacity-increasing expansion.

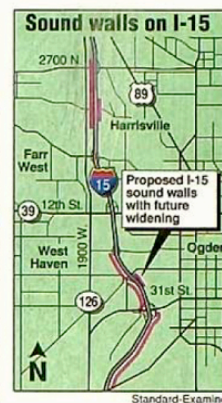
UDOT mailed surveys and went door-to-door in the areas,

but it has not met the two-thirds threshold for any of them.

Neff said it is not too late for property owners to vote on whether they want sound walls. That is especially true for those east of I-15 between Riverdale Road and 31st Street, where UDOT has found 64 percent support among the 409 property owners who have voted so far.

"We're still open to receiving votes on that, and we want to let folks in the Riverdale area know

See WALLS/4A



Walls

From 1A

that we're extremely close to having the numbers we need to build a noise wall," Neff said. "We want to get this noise wall issue resolved

here within the next week. They need to do it (vote) right away, as soon as possible."

The other four sound wall-eligible areas are on the west side of I-15 from 31st Street to 21st Street in Ogden; on the east side of I-15 south of 24th Street in Ogden; on the west side of I-15 from south of the Willard Canal to north

of 2700 North in Farr West; and on the east side of I-15 from north of the Willard Canal to Farr West Drive in Farr West.

Neff said in the two Ogden areas, less than 50 percent of property owners have voted.

"We're not even close to meeting the responses that we need to build the wall in

those two areas," Neff said.

In the two sound wall-eligible areas of Farr West, UDOT has received so few votes that it plans additional surveying next week, Neff said.

Property owners in the five areas can vote online at www.udot.utah.gov/i15now or by contacting Cyndi Keller at (801) 288-3231.